

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Finding Of No Significant Impact

### NCCWD Pacifica Water Recycling Project

Recommended:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Environmental Specialist

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Concurrence:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Program Manager, Title XVI Program

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Division of Planning

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FONSI No.

\_\_\_\_\_



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region**

**February 2010**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
NCCWD PACIFICA – WATER RECYCLING PROJECT**

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## **Background**

The North Coast County Water District's (NCCWD) Water Recycling Project (WRP) will provide tertiary treated wastewater that meets the California Department of Health Services standards for the production and use of recycled water (Title 22 standards) from the City of Pacifica's Calera Creek Water Recycling Plant (CCWRP) to irrigation sites within the City of Pacifica. The CCWRP has been producing tertiary treated wastewater since 2000.

In 2004, the NCCWD as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) prepared a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the project. A Final Initial Study/Responses to Comments was adopted in November 2004 with Conditions of Approval by the NCCWD (State Clearinghouse No.2004042138). The NCCWD has not started construction on any elements of the project. The WRP studied in the 2004 IS/MND included a pipeline routed from the CCWRP to a storage tank in Sharp Park, a primary distribution pipeline, and a pump station including chemical and electrical buildings at the CCWRP. The IS/MND also analyzed the effects of using the recycled water at various locations within the City of Pacifica.

Following adoption of the IS/MND, and in response to public concerns over the location of a recycled water storage tank within Sharp Park, the NCCWD decided to pursue an alternative location for the tank site. The NCCWD had identified two alternative locations for the tank: one on their property on Gypsy Hill and the other at the CCWRP site where the recycled water originates. Based upon a Supplemental Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (SIS/MND) prepared in 2007, and economic considerations, the NCCWD Board of Directors (as Lead Agency) selected the Gypsy Hill location for the water tank.

The project received a Water Recycling Facilities Federal Capitalization Grant from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). These funds originate from the federal government under the direction of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Due to the presence of listed threatened and endangered species within the project area, the EPA consulted with the USFWS and the USFWS issued a non jeopardy Biological Opinion. In addition, the State Water Resources Control Board, acting on behalf of the EPA, conducted National Historic Preservation Act compliance for the project. On October 17, 2009, a minor reroute of the pipeline route along Highway 1 near the Moose Lodge was suggested by Reclamation after a survey was conducted on a formerly un-surveyed portion of the route. Reclamation entered into consultation with SHPO regarding the minor project change.

Reclamation proposes to provide Federal funds to share in the cost of the project through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5) and through the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act of 1992 (Title XVI of Public Law 102-575). Title XVI authorizes Federal cost-sharing in approved water reuse projects up to 25 percent of the total eligible project costs for any water recycling project.

## ***Project Description***

The proposed WRP will serve the central portion of the City of Pacifica. Recycled water customers will include the Sharp Park Beach Boulevard Promenade, Fairway Park (baseball diamonds), Highway 1 landscaping (CalTrans median) between Sharp Park and Paloma Avenue, Oceana High School and Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School. Elements of this phase include: booster pumping facilities at the Calera Creek Water Recycling Plant (CCWRP), construction of a new 400,000 gallon recycled water above-ground storage tank at Gypsy Hill, and approximately 17,000 linear feet of reclaimed water transmission and distribution pipelines.

The Recycled Water Pump Station will be located adjacent to the existing filter structure at the CCWRP, on the south east side of the structure. The pump station includes two approximately 700 gallon-per-minute pumps. This equipment will occupy an area of 234 square feet (18 feet long by 13 feet wide).

The above-ground recycled water storage tank will be located on the same property as the NCCWD's 3MG Gypsy Hill potable water tank. This site is off of Gypsy Hill Road (APN 016-460-030). As with the potable water tank, the recycled water tank will be circular and will be made of welded steel on a concrete foundation. It will be approximately 28 feet high by 55 feet in diameter with a capacity of 400,000 gallons. This tank will be considerably smaller than the existing potable water tank. A maximum of five new emergency lights will be at the water tank site; this lighting will be manually controlled (as opposed to motion-sensitive).

The recycled water tank will tie into the primary distribution pipeline at the CCWRP. The distribution pipeline route has not changed from the route proposed in the IS/MND. It will begin at the CCWRP, then go north and then east out to Highway 1, then north on the west side of Highway 1 to Bradford Way, then to Francisco Boulevard, Oceana Boulevard and Clarendon Road. The pipeline will be connected to the new pump station, described below. As listed and analyzed in the WRP IS/MND, the pipeline installation trench will either be backfilled or plated in traffic areas at the close of each workday to minimize disruption to vehicular and pedestrian traffic during construction.

A tank feed pipeline will be required to connect the Gypsy Hill tank with the primary distribution pipeline. This tank feed pipeline will be installed in street and highway rights-of-way and in the NCCWD right-of-way to Gypsy Hill. The tank feed pipeline will connect to the distribution pipeline at Clarendon Road then will traverse a section of open space land from the eastern end of Clarendon Road to Gypsy Hill. As listed and analyzed in 2004, the pipeline will be designed to enable flow in both directions and water from the storage tank to the irrigation sites will also travel through this pipeline. From Clarendon Road to the Gypsy Hill site, the pipeline will run parallel to the NCCWD's existing potable water pipeline and will share that easement.

## ***Findings***

The NCCWD completed the SIS/MND for the Project under the California Environmental Quality Act in 2007 and the Board of Directors of NCCWD adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration in the same year. Reclamation prepared an environmental assessment (EA) in February 2010 which added information required by the National Environmental Policy Act and other Federal requirements. Based on the SIS/MND and the EA, the Division of Planning of the Mid-Pacific Region of Reclamation has found that the proposed action is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required for carrying out the proposed action.

The EA complies with the Council of Environmental Quality's NEPA Regulations and other requirements such as the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and local and State requirements (see below). It meets Reclamation's public involvement requirements.

Following are the reasons why the impacts of the proposed action are not significant:

1. The project will not significantly affect surface water hydrology and water quality. No aboveground facilities are proposed in areas subject to flooding. Recycled water quality is acceptable for use in landscape irrigation. Monitoring and management of recycled water quality and control of irrigation will avoid surface runoff from excessive irrigation. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan will ensure that there are no adverse effects on water quality during pipeline construction.
2. The project will not affect groundwater hydrology and water quality. The project does not involve extraction or use of groundwater and thus will not cause subsidence of land. The area served by this pipeline extension is already being irrigated, so irrigation with recycled water will not affect groundwater levels or gradients.
4. The project will not significantly affect land use. The areas where the facilities will be built are in the existing CCRWP footprint (pump station), along the shoulder of Highway 1 and up an undeveloped hillside (pipeline) to a site where an existing NCCWD water tank is located (storage tank). Furthermore, construction impacts will be temporary and not significant.
5. The project will not significantly affect air quality. The project will comply with construction-period mitigation measures which follow the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Basic Control Measures for construction air quality impacts. There are no sensitive receptors such as residences, churches, or schools along the pipeline corridor.
6. The project will not significantly affect traffic. Before the start of construction, a traffic management plan will be prepared for the project. There will be time of day restrictions and temporary detours for any areas requiring lane closures.
7. The project will affect biological resources, but mitigation measures incorporated into the project, including the measures included in the USFWS Biological Opinion, will reduce impacts to less than significant. Potential nesting trees for raptor and passerine species occur within and adjacent to the pipeline segment from Clarendon Road to Gypsy Hill and at the Gypsy Hill tank site. These birds could be adversely affected if construction occurs during nesting season (February 1 through August 31 of any given year). This potential impact will be reduced by the measure that limits the construction period to the non-nesting season and/or by conducting a pre-construction survey during the nesting season that shows birds are not nesting in the project area.

The San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat habitat exists within this corridor. If San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat nests are within 250 feet of the project site, construction activities may adversely affect this species. This impact will be reduced by the measure that requires a preconstruction survey for woodrat nests by a qualified biologist prior to construction.

EPA consulted with the USFWS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act in 2009 for their State Revolving Fund loan for the project. The USFWS sent a biological opinion to EPA on March 11, 2009 which determined that the project may result in take of California red-legged frogs (CRLF) and San Francisco garter snakes (SFGS). The USFWS issued construction-related avoidance measures for CRF and SFGS as part of the Biological Opinion. These measures will reduce impacts to less than significant. On November 6, 2009, the USFWS concurred that no additional Section 7 consultation with Reclamation is necessary because USFWS had already consulted with EPA on this project.

8. The project will not significantly affect noise. Short-term construction-related noise impacts will be minimized by implementation of noise controls and limited hours of construction.

9. The project will not significantly affect public health. Previous environmental documentation determined that the use of recycled water for industrial and irrigation uses does not pose significant public health risks. The Proposed Action will comply with previously identified measures, including Regional Water Quality Control Board general requirements and Title 22 requirements for water reclamation.

10. The proposed action will not significantly affect cultural resources. One archaeological site (CA-SMA-268) was identified adjacent to the Area of Potential Effects (APE). This site consists of a shell midden. The following mitigation measure will be incorporated into the project: prior to the initiation of construction or ground-disturbing activities, the District's contractor shall fence the perimeter of archaeological site SMA 268 and inform all construction personnel of excavation limits and location of the aforementioned site.

In addition to the shell midden, construction of the proposed project could reveal as yet unknown prehistoric or historic archaeological resources along the Gypsy Hill pipeline route, or at the Gypsy Hill tank site. The following measure will be incorporated into the project: prior to the initiation of construction or ground-disturbing activities, the NCCWD Project Manager shall conduct a tailgate meeting to inform all construction personnel of the potential for exposing subsurface cultural resources and to recognize possible buried cultural resources.

Reclamation contacted the California State Office of Historic Preservation (State Office) regarding the project's compliance Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Staff at the State Office reviewed documentation provided by Holman and Associates and Reclamation. In a letter dated October 29, 2009, to Mr. Michael Chotkowski of Reclamation, Mr. Milford Donaldson of the State Office concurred with Reclamation that no historic properties would be affected by the project.

11. The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.

12. The proposed action will not disproportionately impact minority and disadvantaged populations or communities.

13. The proposed action will not have significant cumulative impacts.

14. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial.